THOUGHTS OF A PROJECT

For Draining the

Irish Channel.

Difficile est primis Communia dicere.

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THOUGHTS
OR A
PROJECT
for Draining the
Wash Channel.

TO THE

Right Honourable

R------- D------,

Viſcouut-- *and* Baron--.

My Lord,

T would be a generous Condeſcention, in Your Lordſhip, to take this Work under Your Protection,

on, at a Time, when we labour under ſo many unhappy Circumſtances: And Your Goodneſs would appear the more Remarkable, that You would think me worthy of Your Care, when you have ſo freſh in your Mind the exquiſite Delicacy of fine Performances Abroad.

A peculiar Genius, conducted by a happy Judgment, is what renders you ſo agreeable to all thoſe who have the Honour to know you, and you will ſhew an Inſtance of the greateſt Humanity, to Intereſt your ſelf for the Encouragement

courragement of this Undertaking.

I hope there are many who will coucur with your Lordſhip's Sentiments, and think themſelves concern'd to promote ſo Noble a Deſign; a Deſign which (I doubt not) moſt Foreign States, in ſome Time, will think it their Intereſt to ſupport. By theſe Means, we may retrieve the Reputation of our Affairs, and, in a ſhort Time, Rival, even, the *Dutch*. For my own Part, as I have uſed all my Endeavours in thinking and projecting, I preſume to aſſure my ſelf of your

your Lordſhip's Favour; and am, with the utmoſt Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt

Oblig'd, and moſt Devoted

Humble Servant,

***A. M.* in Hydroſtat.**

THOUGHTS OF A New PROJECT.

IF I could have contented my self with the Advice given in the Text, I should not be guilty of this which I am now about; for 'tis an unbeaten Path I am treading, for my Author tells us, That new Subjects are not easily explained, and that if a Man must

muſt needs turn Scribler, he had better chuſe a Theam, that has been already written, and endeavour rather to improve that, than truſt to an Invention of his own, for what has been originally writ on, may be ſo well diſguis'd, and ſo improv'd, that (with ſome Juſtice) it may paſs for his own, but ſtill the Author does not abſolutely forbid it, but ſays, 'tis better ſo to do, and therefore I muſt beg leave to take Liberty, and go my own way; I have, with a Thouſand others, if not more, been ſo perplex'd in my Paſſage from the *Head* hither, and from hence thither, eſpecially three parts of the Year, that I have ſet me down to conſider whether the *Iriſh* Channel might be drain'd or not, for leſs than the Value to be found therein, and at laſt thought it practicable, for the Channel is ſo cramp'd by the Shores on each ſide, that in Winter time, for want of Elbow-room, you'll find nothing but the Sea foaming, roaring, bouncing, friſking, skipping,

jerk-

jerking, heaving, ſetting, toſſing as if in a Ferment, and full of frothy and fiery Billows, in this, thus, pent up Channel, by which very often Commerce is hindered, Paſſengers drown'd or ſtarv'd, at the *Head*, Ships and Goods loſt, Merchants ruin'd, Trade deſtroy'd, and God knows, at this time, we have no need of Home-loſſes, being fairly, or otherwiſe, ruin'd abroad; therefore 'tis time to prevent, for the future, thoſe Inconveniencies, and remove the Nuſance (if poſſible) I can aſſure my Reader, that I am not to get or loſe by the Project; but if it can be thought feaſible, ſet about heartily, and effected, it will be a great Means to reſtore Publick Credit, bring an immenſe Treaſure to our two Kingdoms, and raiſe to us and our Poſterity, an univerſal Reputation. I have been told (and nothing but want of Education makes me not believe it) that the Wing of a Fly may be ſo divided, as to cloath an Army---And prove it the Learned do, by a Saying among them, *Omne*

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continuum diviſibile in infinitum. If ſo, nothing (I think) is impoſſible. The Gentleman I apply my ſelf to was lately in this Kingdom, propoſing to make the Barr of *Dublin* more ſafe and commodious; but that appearing to be a Work too mean for his vaſt Capacity, I therefore thought of a Work more worthy this great Genius, and skilful Man, and happily at laſt a Project came into my Head, the effecting of which, I ſhould deſpair of, were he not the Undertaker----Since by the general Rule laid down above, it is poſſible to be done, why not to be undertaken, if once undertaken, why not to be effected, and if effected, muſt be for the Good of the Publick in general, and the private Intereſt of the Projector in particular (which perhaps was his chief Aim in coming hither) and I hope it may prove feaſible enough, when well weighed and conſidered, though at firſt view it may ſeem a little harſh to the Vulgar-----And my Thoughts are of draining the *Iriſh* Channel, from *North*

to

to *South*, in which (when drained) there will be found (without doubt) immenſe Treaſure, enough to defray all the Expence, and to pay very well for the Trouble of doing the ſame; ſo that if ſome of the ableſt Projectors of our Kingdom, and thoſe adjoining, would but incorporate (by Charter or otherwiſe) and lay in heartily and willingly but One Hundred Thouſand Pounds, or any greater or leſs Sum, towards the accompliſhing ſo beneficial a Work, they may, in a little time (by the great Skill and good Conduct of the Projector General) reaſonably expect a Pound for their Peny, and I would have them think on't without delay, in order to ſet about the Work next Spring, early. It may be objected, that the Admiralty will not conſent to it, for that the Men of War will loſe their Stations, and Thorowfare, and the Duties be loſt, when the Merchantmen can neither come in, nor go out: As for that, there will be no occaſion for Men of War in the Channel, when

there are no Ships to be convoy'd, and that will ſave ſome Thouſands of Pounds *per Annum*, as to that Particular, and have thoſe Ships of War, ready to be employed elſewhere (if occaſion) or be laid up: And then again, the Merchant Ships will be let in and out, as well as ever, through the Locks which (I preſume) the Projector will make at both Ends of the Channel, by the Help and Advice of my Friend *S----* I mean Ships from abroad; as for the Ships on each ſide of the Channel, there will be no occaſion for them, except the Weſt of *England*, and the Eaſt of *Ireland*, may think fit to keep a few, to take the Advantage of the Sea when we are letting in Foreigners, for we will have Land-Carriages for Goods, and that will be a ſafer way of trading than now we have, though (perhaps) not ſo expeditious, but will anſwer in the End, by the Security; and inſtead of being at the Expence of Packet-Boats, we will have Poſt-Horſes and Poſt-Boys, not only from *Dublin*, to the *Head*, but alſo

alſo from oppoſite Port to Port, on each ſide the Channel, which (I alſo preſume) will very much encreaſe his Majeſty's Revenue, beſides Millions of poor Families, now ſtarving, will be then ſupported, by keeping and plying backwards and forwards, with ſuch Carriages as they (here) call *Ring*'s End Carrs, the Licencing which, (and I had like to have forgot it) will alſo much augment the City-Revenue, and in Proportion, the Revenue of all the Sea-Port Towns on each ſide the Channel; there are Millions of Profits, Benefits and Advantages, with which this great and glorious Work (when finiſhed) will be attended, and will perpetuate the Name of this noble, great and wiſe Projector (ſo famous for his Performances of this kind in Foreign Parts, as well as at Home) to all Poſterity; nay, tho' he ſhould fail, and the Buſineſs miſcarry; for, *In magnis vel voluiſſe ſat eſt*, O! the vaſt Quantities of Gold, Silver in Bullion and Specie, Pearl, Rubies, and Diamonds,

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Merchandize of all kinds, ſome not eaſily damaged, or damnified by ſalt Water, or Time, vaſt Quantities of noble Timbers, eaſily grappled up, to make the Locks, to let the Sea in and out, (for they will require good and well-ſeaſon'd Timber;) and thoſe Locks will (more-over) be pretty Traps for Whale, Shark, and Bottle-heads; and it may happen, take a *Manatee*, or Sea-Cow, now and then, which always has a Calf, if not two, by its ſide, out of which you may cut as good a Line of Veal, as ever was ſeen at my Lord Mayor's Table, and that's a bold Word: This I have been told by Captain *Dampier*, with whom I have ſmoak'd many a Pipe in my Time; he (I own) always ſail'd in a ſharp Ship, if he were alive and any hopes of a Viſit from him, it might be very proper to gratify him with a Baſon! 'Tis hardly to be thought, but that my Thoughts, (at preſent) run ſomewhat higher than uſual, what precious Stones and Fiſhes, we ſhall diſcover

cover in this Channel.------*Adamant*, *Agath*, *Amathyſt*, *Azure*, *Antimony-Stones*, *Blood-Stones*, *Carbuncles*, *Chryſtal*, *Cornelian*, *Coral* as big as *Lobſter's Claws*, *Diamond*, *Grindſtones*, *Hones*, *Jett*, *Touch-Stones*, *Whetſtones*, *Topas*, and *Thunder-Stones*: Sure no Body will deny but that it muſt be worth while to undertake any thing in queſt of ſuch Treaſure; for your Sportſmen, they will get the fineſt Sea *Setting-Dogs* in the World, one of which is worth a Million of our *Land-Setters*; I never ſaw but one, and that was taken at *Dagnum* Breach, and ſold to the D----- of *D*------- for a vaſt Sum of Money, and was called *Scale-Cliffe*. As for Fiſhes, 'tis impoſſible to enumerate the great Variety of thoſe; I don't doubt, but we ſhall get *Crabs* and *Lobſters*, whoſe *Claws*, or *Horns*, will be as big and branching, as any *Stags*, or *Elks*, and make a finer Figure in a Nobleman's common Hall. Then your *Lumps*, or *Sea-Owls*, are the fineſt Hawks (when reclaimed) imaginable;

I have been told, that one of them purſued his Game from the Iſle of *Wight* to *Gibraltar*, for they can reſt themſelves at Sea, where ours muſt inevitably ſink and periſh.

Your Sea *Fire-Sparks* (bad for the Chandlers) there need none of their Lights in a Houſe or Ship, where one of thoſe are; but I'm ſure, the Undertakers of the City-Lights, may very well erect a Monument to my Memory; for one of thoſe in a Lanthorn, will ſerve a whole Street for ever, tho' it were three Mile in Length, or more; and there will (I preſume) be found ſuch vaſt Quanties of them, that they will not ſell for more than 20 Guineas a-piece; but the largeſt ſort, ſuch as may be fit for Light-Houſes, to give you good Light, from *Hoath* to the *Head*, in the darkeſt Night, (perhaps) may bring 500 *l.* and a good Bargain too.

You have often ſeen the Stars fall, and yet I could never hear of but one taken up off the Ground, and that was

at *Bantum*; 'twas bloody hot, burn'd the Boy's hand, to that degree, that in a little time it wither'd and fell off, do all they could; then I muſt conclude, they all fall into the Sea, and lying at the bottom, there petrify and grow brighter than when they fall, by reaſon of their being ſtill twirled to and fro, by the *Flux*, *Reflux*, *Rowling*, and perpetual *Agitation* of the Sea, and the *Nitre* thereof, eſpecially in this very narrow Channel; and I muſt tell my Reader (I ought, according to Cuſtom, ſay, *Candid Reader*) that notwithſtanding all the *Racket*, *Noiſe* and *Nonſenſe*, that has been made in the World, about the *Moon* and its *Horns*, New and Full *Moons*, &c. that the old *Moons* (as ſure as Death) all fall and have fallen into the Sea, and become thoſe large *Sea Fire-Sparks*: You ſhall ſee at the taking up of the firſt of them, (for there is nothing equally convincing with Demonſtration) that what I have ſaid will appear to be Truth, however, People (till then)

perhaps may laugh at it, let 'em laugh on; we may, 'tis likely, meet with ſome Foreigners, taking a Tour to our Channel, as your *Latligo's* from the Sea of *Mauritania*, one of which is able to overſet the beſt Man of War in *Europe*; your *Uronoſcopo's*, with one Eye, which when taken out, and well cured, is equal to the *Carbuncle*, taken by Captain *Ivory*, ſome Time ago, out of the Great *Mogul's* Daughter's Saddle, which I have had often in my hand; your *Aquipenſers*, *Callionymus*, *Remelligo's*, *Remora's*, *Aricas*, *Auxumæ*, *Loliguncula's*, and *Antacæi*, which are Natives of the famous River *Boryſthenes*, ſome of whoſe Skins are better than any of our Tann'd-Hides, or Buff either, being often try'd, and found to be Cannon-Proof.

To tell you of the Roving *Sea-Rogues*, that wander, and come hither from the *Ganges* and River *Nile*, would be too tedious, and therefore for them, refer you to my next Thoughts: I muſt obſerve one thing more,

more, that is, about your *Sea-Monſters*, and at this time, particularly, when nothing more dangerous than the Importation of Furrs, that the Skins and Furrs of the *Sea-Goats*, *Kids*, *Rabits*, *Hares*, *Cats*, and *Sea-Kitlings*, *Apes*, *Baboons*, *Monkeys*, (and of thoſe *Sea-Monkeys* I will tell you a comical Story in my next) *Squirrels*, *Ferrets*, *Sea-Bitches Babies*, *Foxes* and their *Cubs* (the beſt Guard that ever Man had for his Houſe, both againſt Rogues and the Plague) the ſmell of a *Sea-Fox* is beyond all the Ante-Contagions on Earth, their fine Tails and Skins, one for Tipets, the other for Riding-Breeches, beyond Sable or Buck-Skins, by reaſon of their Virtue, juſt mentioned; and would it not be a pretty Sight to ſee a *Sea-Horſe* at the Tower? Such a Preſent was never known to be made to any Monarch on Earth, who knows what may happen in this Reign.

The *Sea-Weesel*, *Poll-Cat*, *Scythian Sea-Marten*, *Musk* or *Civet-Cat*; the scent of any of those is much preferable to all or any of your Spirit of Hartshorn, stale Piss, or Assafœtida, ever yet known, and comes mighty seasonable at this Time; 'twill sell prodigious dear, in *France*, if the Plague ceases not to rage till this Channel is drain'd GOD (forbid but it should cease sooner, for who knows what Difficulties may attend so great an Undertaking.)

I can't pass by your *Sea-Cantharides*, (good for Apothecaries) one of which will raise a Blister over the whole Body (if occasion) sooner then all that ever were brought from abroad, and the Fly still continue its Virtue, and an excellent thing on the Tongue of a Scold.

The *Sea-Earwick*, or *Twitch-bell*, the *Tadpole*, the *Water-Lop*, the *Chur-worm*, or *Fen-Ricket*, the *Sea-Gnat*, or *Jenny-Spinner*; all those good for the Chincough and *Lues Venerea*.

In

In ſhort, we need never go to the *Indies* for Druggs, if we once came acquainted with, and to a perfect Knowledge and Underſtanding of the Wonders of the Deep.

The Tusks of a *Sea-Bear*, the Horns of your *Sea-Roe-Bucks*, *Red-Dear*, *Goat*, *Hart*, or *Stone-Buck*, the *Sea-Unicorn*'s Horns and *Elephant*'s Teeth, are and will prove of mighty Value to the Company (which without doubt will be called, **The Iriſh-Sea Company.**) And laſt of all, (for it would be endleſs to reckon up all the Advantages like to be reaped by the Company) the *Sea-Salamander*, that's the D——l, and there I will leave him, let the Directors diſpoſe of him as they pleaſe.

How to begin or end this great Undertaking, I know not, I will leave that to the Projector-General, with the Aſſiſtance of my Friend *St*———*n*, and to thoſe (I mean the Company) whoſe chief Buſineſs and Study it is, and ought to be, to look to that, and will (without

(without doubt) gain by the Project; if they ſhould be at any Loſs in that Point, Mr. *L*—— is (now) at hand, and will ſoon ſet them on a right Bottom.

I have heard the Freſh-Water Engineer often ſay, that it was as eaſy to raiſe the Water (and done by the ſame Rule) 10,000 Foot high, as one; if ſo, (as it moſt certainly is) only at a little more Expence and Trouble, I muſt conclude they may make a Lock or Locks to let the Sea in and out, after the Model of thoſe made on the River *Liffy*, 10,000 Yards or Miles broad, as well as from Sir *John R---ſon's* Key, to the North-Strand; and if ever People were in a fairer way of being better paid for their Labour, let them tell me I am no Conjurer, eſpecially when they know they have in the Channel more good old Timber than will make thoſe Locks, which they may ſoon grapple and take up (a poor Piece of Mechaniſm indeed) one we will ſuppoſe

from

from the *Tuskard*, or *Trundin*, to Saint *David*'s Point, and ſo ſhut out the *Biſhop* and *Clerks*; and another from *Baltimore*, a South-weſt Point of *Ireland*, to the *Lands-End* of *England*, or ſomewhere thereabouts, and that will make a noble Baſon; and another on the North-end of the Channel, where the Projector-General pleaſes, as (ſuppoſe) from *Carrickfergus*-Point, over to *Port-Patrick*, in *Scotland*.

I don't know but ſome may be ſo fooliſh as to make an Objection, to the Difficulty of keeping out the Rivers on each ſide, but that's a Jeſt; and I my ſelf, who know little of the Matter, can tell you, that they may be carried away in large Trunks, according to the Models lately produced; and as eaſily, as our Rain-Water is conveyed from off our Houſes, and need not all that Cook'ry on them, that the Models produced appeared to have.

'Tis

'Tis true, (for I am resolv'd to leave no Objection unanswered) those Gentlemen who have Fisheries, sav'd to them by Act of Parliament, may, at first bound of this Project, object to it: But let me tell them, that let them put what Value they will on their yearly Profit, (provided they are not very Extravagant indeed) they will soon be told, *Sirs, You shall have it out of the* **Stocks.** And if that will not satisfy them, the Admiralty may probably, and will secure them out of the **Money** sav'd by not keeping Men of War in the Channel; so that I think they are very well provided for.

Nothing but the great Value I have for this knowing Projector, seconded with a just Concern for loss of Money, Trade and Credit in the **South-Sea**, could prevail on me to turn my self thus to endeavour the retrieving our selves in the *Irish* Channel.

These

These are the Reasons which have prompted me to give some few Hints and Sketches of my Thoughts of the probable Advantages, which may arise from so great and good a Work so advantageous (like to be) to *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, and so very beneficial to the Undertakers.

I can't pretend to set down all the Objections to which such an Undertaking may be liable; but if what is hinted at, could excite Men of Understanding and Money, to consider further on't, (the money'd Men having Leisure enough to think on't, and the Noble Projector Skill enough to go through with it, if once set on foot,) I do not doubt but this Scheme may be improved to a mighty Advantage, both in the Undertaking and Performance, when it but once receives the Countenance of this and the other neighbouring Nations.

Now for fear any one should think that I am not serious, in imagining this Work practicable, I would desire the

Doubtful to ſtep to *France*, and enquire about the Demolition of *Mardyke*, whether in that Work there was not a Sluce to receive Ships from Sea, into a new Canal; a Canal to be made through the *Downs*, a Sluce to let in and out Inland-waters; a Canal to hold the Inland-waters; a Canal to preſerve the Communication with *Berg-de-la-Moer* and *Bourbourg*, and a Sluce through which ſmall Veſſels may tranſport Goods taken on Board from greater Ships, to *Berg*, *Furnes*, St. *Omer*, *Ypres*, and other Places: He that denies this, pays no more Reſpect to our Underſtanding, than he does to our Power of Undertaking and Effecting.

I am no way diffident of our great Maſter in Hydroſtatick Performances, but that he will lay his Engines, Wheels and Machines in ſuch order, that the ſame Maſs of Waters, which may be brought in, may be alſo let out, provided we agree among our ſelves; for whether we are *Whigs* or *Tories*,

we

we ſhould (methinks) have one common Indignation againſt any Oppoſer of this Project; and I cannot have ſo little Charity, as not to ſuppoſe, that how warmly ſoever any Party wiſhes for their own Scheme (though they fail in it) they ſtill retain Love enough for their Country, to wiſh it great and powerful under this, or any other good and profitable Scheme; as for the Uncle and Nephew, I will leave them to Battle it out, but now I think on't, the Seventy Majority has made them good Friends, and hope both will now Run in with me, and bring their Friends with them, *&c.*

ERRATA.

Some Part of this PAPER being wrought off from the Preſs in the Author's Abſence, theſe few Faults following have eſcaped his Correction.

PAge——, Line——, for B—k, G—r, D—r, C—er, read *Mo—ly*, *Q—ty*, *P—ty*, *F—ry*; p——, l——, for After long and mature Deliberation, read 150 *to* 80; p——, l——, for Preſented to his M——ty, read *Appointed accordingly*; p——, l——, for Iron Cheſts, read *Leathern Fobbs*; p——, l——, for A good Bottle of Wine, read *A Bottle of good Wine*; p—, l—, for Whores and Bawds, read *Members and Tools*; p—, l—, for Hoop-Petticoats and Bum-Perſpectives, read *Inquire within and you ſhall know further*; p—,

p—, l—, for P——ps, Sp—s, and Pickpockets, read *Ingroſſors, Foreſtallers, and Regreaters*; p—, l—, for Midwifes, read *Revealers of Secrets*; p—, l—, for Anchovies, Oyl, and Vinegar, read *Radiſhes, Oyſters, and Balls-Pizzels*; p—, l—, for C—— and good Company, read *The Governour and Company*; p—, l—, for The North-Strand, read *All in good Time*; p—, l—, for She hides her Face, read *She ſhews her A—ſe*; p—, l—, for Cock-Bawds, read *A good Income*; p—, l—, for Country and Court-Party, read *Waſh-Balls and Spectacles*; p—, l—, for Claps and Poxes, read *Snuff-Boxes and Patches*; p—, l—, for Fi, fa, ſci, fa, *Re, fa, lo, po, lo*; read what you pleaſe for I'm in haſte.

The other Faults being but literal Miſtakes, are left to every candid Reader to correct as he goes on.

N. B.

N. B. In my next Thoughts you shall have an Account of the particular Places of the Channel wherein (moſt likely) the perpetual Motion, and the Longitude, are to be grappel'd up; for you will allow, that 'tis matter of great Depth to find thoſe out, and if not found out in this Channel, how We muſt go to work at the *Streights* Mouth, in order to look for them in the *Mediteranean.*

FINIS.